

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

OES-03 CEA-01 CIAE-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06

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PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 /087 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9434

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 2544

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, UY

SUBJECT: VISIT OF MEXICAN REPRESENTATIVE-PROSELYTIZING FOR SELA

REF: A) MONTEVIDEO -2427 B) BRASILIA 6088

1. IFCA PRESS C CPLDDW PUBLISHED JULY 25, MEXICAN SPECIAL AMBAS-
SADOR JULIO ZAMORA "DECLARED URUGUAY HAS SHOWN A FAVOLRABLE ATTI-
TUDE TOWARDS THE FORMATION OF SELA." ZAMORA MET WITH FONMIN BLANCO
AND PRESIDENT BORDABERRY DURING COURSE OF SHORT VISIT TO URUGUAY
BEFORE PROCEEDING TO ARGENTINA.

2. REPLYING TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS, ZAMORA WAS UNABLE TO MAINTAIN
THAT SUPPORT WAS AS GREAT AS THAT WHICH HE IMPLIED IN HIS DECLARA-
TION.

--ASKED "CAN IT BE SAID URUGUAY SUPPORTS THE CREATION OF SELA?"

--ZAMORA REPLIED, " WELL, I CAN'T CONFIRM THAT. IT'S NOT WITHIN

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MY RESPONSIBILITY. I CAN SAY THAT URUGUAY'S ATTITUDE IS VERY

POSITIVE, BUT TO CONFIRM OR DENY IS NOT UP TO ME."

3. ZAMORA DESCRIBED SELA'S GOALS AS THE STUDY OF ECONOMIC MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST SUCH AS THE ACCELERATION OF THE INTEGRATION PROCESS, THE ACQUISITION AND INVESTIGATION OF TECHNOLOGY, THE CREATION OF MULTI-NATIONAL ENTERPRISES, THE PROMOTION OF EXPORTS AND IMPORT AGREEMENTS. HE REPORTEDLY EMPHASIZED THE SELA IS NOT TO BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS, BUT RATER IS INTENDED TO EXPAND AND CO-ORDINATE THOSE WHICH PROMOTE ECONOMIC INTEGRATION.

4. ACCORDING TO ZAMORA, SELA WILL BE A "SYSTEM OF ABSOLUTE PLURALISM." HE EXPLAINED THAT BY THIS HE MEANS NO COUNTRY WOULD BE EXCULDED FOR POLITICAL REASONS, AND CONFIRMED THAT BOTH CHILE AND CUBA WOULD BE REPRESENTED AT PANAMA MEETING.

5. ZAMORA ALSO SAID THAT URUGUAY WILL BE REPRESENTED AT BOTH THE JULY 28 AND JULY 31 MEETINGS, BUT DID NOT INDICATE WHO GOU REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE.

6. ALTHOUGH NOT YET ANNOUNCED, THE EMABSSY UNDERSTANDS THE GOU WILL BE REPRESENTED AT THE SELA MEETINGS BY AMBASSADOR GUSTAVO MAGARINOS, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR FOREIGN TRADE, ASSISTED BY THE URUGUAYAN AMBASSADOR IN PANAMA.

COMMENT:

7. THE GOU DOES NOT REGARD SELA AS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE TO ITS INTERESTS AND HIGH-LEVEL FONMIN OFFICIALS ARE SUSPICIOUS OF THE MOTIVES FOR ITS FORMATION. THERE IS CONCERN OVER SELA'S POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM, WHICH THE GOU VIEWS AS A FORUM MUCH MORE LIKELY TO ADVANCE URUGUAY'S INTERESTS. ONE SUCH OFFICIAL COMMENTED TO AN EMBOFF THAT SELA IS "LIKE A FRAME WITHOUT A PICTURE." ALTHOUGH THERE IS A GENERAL IDEA OF THE FORM SELA MIGHT TAKE, THERE IS NO CONCEPT OF HOW IT WILL WORK. LIKE ITS SOUTHERN CONE NEIGHBORS, URUGUAY WILL TAKE PART FOR THE SAKE OF SOLIDARITY, BUT HAS NO INTEREST IN SELA AS A CONFRONATATIONAL VEHICLE.

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